



ryan arney <electionzone@yahoo.com> on 09/25/99 11:57:37 AM

To: Jonathan Levin/FEC/US
cc:
Subject: Re: Your Advisory Opinion Request

Supplement for
AOR 1999-24

On behalf of Election Zone LLC, I am responding to your list of queries regarding the operation of ElectionZone.com and the organizational attributes of Election Zone LLC.

1. Q & A Zone: The primary purpose of Q & A Zone is to provide a medium of communication between candidates and voters, without the filtering and editing found in more traditional forms of media. However, in order to maintain an effective operation of ElectionZone.com, there are certain standards applicable to the information flowing through Q & A Zone. First, incoming questions from voters will be restricted in the following manner: (1) questions must rationally relate to the selected race; (2) questions must not be repetitious of any questions previously posed; (3) questions must be addressed to each of the participating candidates, not just one candidate; (4) questions whose purpose is to request candidates to offer opinions or make comments about the other candidates will be prohibited; and (5) questions must be under a certain word limit (most likely 100 words, but this is subject to change). If a voter's question does not abide by the aforementioned rules, the question will not be posed to the candidates. However, the voter will receive notice of the problem, and will be encouraged to resubmit the question in accordance with the rules. In addition, if there are questions that are incoherent, Election Zone will notify the voter, and ask for clarification.

Accordingly, voters will control the questions asked, and subject to the aforementioned rules, the voters' questions will be transmitted to the candidates of the selected race.

With respect to the candidates' responses, Q & A Zone will have a word-limit on the responses. That limit is not definite at this point, but will be based on capacity and periodic review of the operation of ElectionZone.com. At the outset, candidates will be instructed as to a word-limit per question and will be

instructed to either answer the question posed, or respond with a general "no comment" reply. In addition, because the purpose of the Q & A Zone is to allow voters to elicit the candidates' personal beliefs, stances, and platforms on certain issues, the candidates will be encouraged to strictly answer the question posed.

Finally, as previously mentioned, the medium of exchange should be as unfiltered and unedited as is possible. Therefore, if the questions or answers do not meet the few guidelines, Election Zone will notify the voter or candidate who issued the communication, and allow that person to re-issue the question or answer. Election Zone will not be an editing body on its own.

(2) On-Line Debate Zone is not modeled after any other on-line forum. It will operate much like any other debate. On-line, one will see a dialogue box. The first posting will be the moderator's question. Subsequently, the candidates' responses will appear in the scheduled order.

(3) At this time, there is not a model site on-line, as it is under development. The fully operational site should be completed in October. If, however, you should need any additional explanation as to the operations or functions of any of the "Zones" please do not hesitate to ask.

(4) By phone, you asked whether Election Zone LLC would be taxed as a partnership or C-corporation. Election Zone will check the box to be treated as a partnership. This is reflected in the Operating Agreement as well.

Thank you for your assistance. Should you have any additional questions, or need more information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Ryan C. Arney
Election Zone LLC
303-543-8371

--- Jonathan Levin <jlevin@fec.gov> wrote:

>

>

> To: Ryan C. Arney

>

> I am an attorney at the Federal Election

> Commission, working under Brad

> Litchfield's supervision, and I am preparing a
> response to your request for an
> advisory opinion. (It has been captioned as
> Advisory Opinion 1999-24.) Brad
> and I have a few additional questions with respect
> to the factual situation.
>
> (1) In your discussion of the "Q&A Zone," you refer
> to the receipt of questions
> and their transmission to the candidates and then
> the candidates have an
> opportunity to respond. Once that happens, the
> questions and answers will be
> posted. Please state whether Election Zone will
> edit either the questions or
> answers and describe how the editing will be done,
> e.g., with respect to content
> and length. State whether there will be any
> screening of the questions, e.g.,
> with respect to coherence and length.
>
> (2) State whether the "On-Line Debate Zone": is
> modeled on any other such forum
> appearing on the web. If so, please refer us to the
> web sites that you used as
> a model.
>
> (3) With respect to both the Q&A Zone and the
> Debate Zone, please indicate
> whether there is a demonstration model site. If so,
> we would like to be
> directed to that site (i.e, URL) to see how it
> operates.
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